

### **GOD, LAND AND BELIEFS III**

**A pause....to remember: Five years since the dastardly sneak attack, reminiscent of Pearl Harbor. I decided it was time, overdue, to raise old Glory in all its splendor at our home in Loxley. Like Pearl Harbor 9/11 is etched in historical significance and requires the flag to be raised to the top and then at half-staff for the day. I reminded many by message of the need to prevail, to pray for our President and our country. ....and to raise their own flag.**

**Cease fire holds between Israel and Lebanon/ Hezbollah while Iraq shudders under sectarian violence and continued militant/coalition conflict. Taliban in Afghanistan has resurfaced to fight in part.**

**God, land and beliefs still inspired the Jew in dispersion and the Arab often dominated by others. Before WWI, despite Turkish Moslem suzerainty major powers moved freely in the Mediterranean capitalizing on use of the Suez Canal -financed and built by the French and Egyptians-and became a protectorate of the British by 1914. Earlier an Islamic Mahdi(one who is guided)was defeated in Sudan by Kitchener . WWI ended by Armistice favorable to the Americans, British and French while Germany suffered from land loss, reparations, and other affronts; Austro-Hungary Habsburgs and Turkish Ottomans disappeared into history. Hopes of the Jew and Arab were renewed.**

**Players leap out of the historical mix: Kitchener, Allenby, McMahon, Churchill, and T.E. Lawrence..... and the Hashimites of Husayn and his three sons: Ali, Abdullah and Faysal. Sykes-Picot(a British/French agreement)laid out a reasonable Arab land definition-**

fused with quasi-independence. Add to this the push

of the American President Wilson for self-determination for all, independence sought by the Arab and the League Mandates for specific regions and countries, and a schism over control of Syria-Lebanon between the British and the French. Ominous beginnings.

Kitchener had argued for operations against the Ottoman Turks via the Dardanelles and the Gallipoli peninsula to take pressure off the Western Front in Europe of daily carnage and little movement. As Admiralty First Lord, Churchill was responsible and the operation failed. Allenby led the attack to seize Palestine and Syria with the help of the legendary Lawrence of Arabia who cajoled/led and inspired the Arab revolt in the Hejaz(Arabia). McMahon was the alter-ego whose expertise in British policy and intelligence in Alexandria was sacrosanct.

Post WWI, Churchill as Colonial Secretary for the Mideast with advice from Lawrence and others oversaw the Mandates which argued with the dream of Lawrence who visualized: "a new nation for the Arabs and a restoration of a lost influence." Faysal, a Lawrence favorite, lost out to be Amir/King of Syria and became the King of Iraq under British protection and administration; Abdullah, Amir of Transjordan, both in 1923 while Husayn became King of Hijaz in 1916-24 and his son Ali followed him in 1925 as Ibn Saud waited in the wings to consolidate Saudi Arabia

Palestine became more of a colony of Great Britain as the groundwork was laid for a homeland for the Jews, with immediate opposition by the Palestinian

**Arabs. The tumultuous twenties/thirties provided the breeding ground for terrorism by Arab and Jew often with the British in the middle...partial to the Arab.**